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15 June 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**SUBJECT: Meeting on Congress and the State Department**

A meeting of senior officers of State, USIA, Arms Control, and the Peace Corps was called today to have an informal, off-the-record exchange with Senators Hickenlooper, Humphrey, and Pell (replacing Sen. Fullbright who was on the original schedule). The meeting was arranged by Mr. Dutton, Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, and held in the West Auditorium with some 400 persons in attendance. The announcement for the meeting said:

"In order to develop better understanding between the Congress and the Executive Agencies responsible for foreign policy, the Secretary has asked that a special meeting for the senior officers of those agencies with key Congressional leaders be arranged."

Mr. Rusk introduced the Senators, emphasized that he hoped for a candid exchange of views, and left so that the discussion "will not be held back by my presence."

Sen. Hickenlooper stressed the importance of exchanges of this type between the legislative and executive branches of government and hoped there would be more. He said he would offer only two suggestions. The first was that the State Department is top-heavy and probably employs twice as many people as it should. The second is that when it comes to presenting arguments to the Foreign Relations Committee it seems to him that policy is lost in a welter of detail like losing the forest for the trees. He urged clear presentations of the policies for which

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CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

support is sought and stated that there had been too many examples of emergency or compulsive measures presented as a result of a crisis.

Sen. Humphrey urged that the term "foreign relations" be dropped in favor of "international relations" since the word "foreign" invokes negative connotations in the hinterland of the United States. He urged more informal contact between the Foreign Service and Senators as a whole, not just members of the Foreign Relations Committee. Perhaps a British-style question period would be an effective instrument to use for this. Thus, he said, many of the leading opponents of individual policies were those who are not involved in their formulation or discussion. He stressed the need to keep in touch with the hinterland: He urged returnees from the field to spend their home leave out of Washington and "in the United States." They should meet and speak to all types of groups, not just the Aions but also the labor unions. In dealing with the legislative branch, Sen. Humphrey encouraged Foreign Service officers to fight back on matters where "you believe we are wrong." He added, "Don't dance around, come out with it." Senator Humphrey continued: "Your boss will back you." There was loud laughter. "I said it loud enough so he could hear it," he added. He then addressed himself to AID and USIA and asked, "Whom do you see abroad? Whom do you talk with?" He expressed the belief that our representatives abroad favor the "ins" who frequently are on the decline rather than the "outs," the upcoming growing new political forces in a country.

Sen. Pell is a former Foreign Service officer, the only one now in the Senate. He had two suggestions. The first was agreeing with Sen. Hickenlooper that State is too big. He also urged a cutdown of official parties and entertainment abroad. Certain formalities and protocol must be maintained but otherwise he urged small parties with people who have ideas. He particularly urged this during

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

the time that Senators or Congressmen come to visit: large receptions do not prove anything; small groups where you can exchange ideas would be much better. His other point was to urge distinguishing national interest from national policies, and letting Senators in on it when our policies and our interests come to diverge.

The questions to the Senators concerned: How would you start reducing the size of the State Department? Sen. Hickenlooper said you simply have to start with administrative action in and by State. What went wrong so that the Lausche Amendment came up? On this, Sen. Humphrey cited a breakdown in communications. The news of discussion of the Amendment was not secret, it had been going on for weeks and this was known to State. Why did not Ambassadors Kennon and Cabot make their views known before the amendment was enacted? Sen. Humphrey added that the matter of aid to communist countries has been fought down repeatedly in the past. There was unexpectedly strong support for it this time, and those who had fought it down in the past somehow lost control for the moment, but the lack of information from State did not help. Why are entertainment allowances inadequate? Sen. Humphrey said he does not think they should be raised, that there are sufficient emoluments abroad and when people entertain they get something out of it, and should not expect the government to pick up the tab all the time.

The meeting was admittedly something new and experimental, particularly its frankness. It could have continued some time longer than the hour and ten minutes that it lasted. The Senators obviously enjoyed it as did the audience. I was surprised not to see AID in the official list of invitees although some AID officers were in the audience. I have heard several comments on the usefulness of State's congressional relations program in the past. This meeting certainly gave Assistant Secretary Dutton a chance to draw renewed attention to the importance of his field of responsibility.

SERGE PETER KARLOW

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- 2 - 
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